Street Lights in Harijan Localities

1441. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for providing street light on priority basis in Harijan localities in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that programme is totally dependent on the concerning 'Gram Panchayats' and that because of the poor financial position of these 'Panchayats' this work gets held up; and

(c) whether in view of the priority Government attach to the welfare of the Harijans, will the Central Government be willing to subsidise the States to the extent of the financial involvement of these pnchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POPWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The State Electricity Boards including the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board have been advised that the proposals for electrification of new villages should include the adjacent Harijan Bastis also, and wherever provision is made for street lights in a village, the adjoining Harijan Bastis should invariably by covered.

(b) The capital expenditure on providing the street lights is borne by the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board. The 'Gram Panchayats' are liable to pay the electricity consumption charges only, which are nominal.

(c) There is no proposal with the Central Government subsidise the States for the electricity consumed in the street lighting.

Gas-based Plant at Utran

1442. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to set up a gas-based combined cycle plant at Utran in Gujarat;

(b) what will be the capaciy of the proposed gas-based plant; and

(c) when will the plant be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) The Gujarat Electricity Board have submitted a proposal to set up a 123 MW gas based combined cycle power plant at Utran. The proposal could be considered for implementation after its techno-economic viability is established, all necessary inputs have been tied up and requisite clearances are received from the State authorities.

Benefit of Doubt to Chemical Industries

1443. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formualte a rational policy to enable the chemical industries to get benefit of doubt in the event of gas leak;

(b) whether Government are aware that industry is put to great hardship due to unfortunate accidents; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Environment Protection Act, 1986 requires that no person carrying on any industry, operation or process shall discharge or emit any environmental pollutant in excess of the prescribed standards. It is, therefore, the responsibility of such persons to ensure safety for man and environment and as suh there cannot be any hardship on this account.

The tortious and other liabilities that may arise out of emissions caused by an accident in excess of the prescribed standards will depend on the facts of each case and the applicable law.